

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7, 13-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,122,612 (Goldberg) in view of U.S. Patent 6,208,965 (Brown)

Applicant respectfully submits the following comments.

Goldberg, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a check-sum based method for performing speech recognition. In the method of Goldberg, if no match can be determined an error message is provided to the user. The user may also be prompted to reenter the identifier again to re-start the process over. (See col. 5, lines 6-9).

Brown, as understood by Applicant, is directed a method for recognizing an input identifier on the basis of a set of comparison identifiers. In the method the user is prompted to provide the input identifier again, but this time according to a second form that is different⁶ than the first form. A second recognized identifier is then generated on the basis of the input identifier provided according to the second form.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of recognizing a spoken digit string. The method includes the steps of receiving the spoken digit string, analyzing the spoken digit string to generate a list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching the spoken digit string, determining whether individual hypothesized strings of said list satisfy a given constraint, using a given knowledge based recognition strategy, and selecting the first string in the list satisfying the constraint as the recognized string. If none of the hypothesized digit strings satisfy the constraint, the method further includes the steps of prompting entry of a second spoken digit string, analyzing the second spoken digit string to generate a second list of hypothesised digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching

the second spoken digit string, and selecting the recognized string in accordance with a comparison of the first and the second list.

As indicated by the Examiner, Goldberg does not teach prompting entry of a second spoken digit string, analyzing the second spoken digit string to generate a second list of hypothesized digit strings arranged in ranked order based on a likelihood of matching the second spoken digit string, and selecting the recognized string in accordance with a comparison of the first and the second list, as recited in Claim 1.

The addition of Brown does not cure the infirmities of Goldberg. Similar to Goldberg, Brown may be deemed to teach re-entering the first identifier, see col. 2, lines 38-39, "The present invention then prompts the user to provide the input identifier again..." However, as noted by the Examiner, the input identifier is in a different form when re-entered, but this is not seen to teach or suggest the comparison as recited in Claim 1.

To simply state that the general idea of the invention is anticipated by the above-discussed art is believed improper. To allege this is merely to reduce claim 1 to a mere "gist" or "thrust." Such an interpretation underestimates the "as a whole" requirement of MPEP 2141.02, and distills the complexities of the actual system of these claims to an abstract general buzz word, precisely the problem obviated by MPEP 2141.02.

Next, it is not seen how one skilled in the art using the teaching of Brown's re-entering the input identifier in a new form provides the motivation to combine as asserted in the Office Action, without improper hindsight by "use[ing] the claimed invention itself as a blueprint for piecing together elements in the prior art to defeat the patentability of the claimed invention," see *In Re Denis Rouffet*, 47 USPQ.2d 1453,

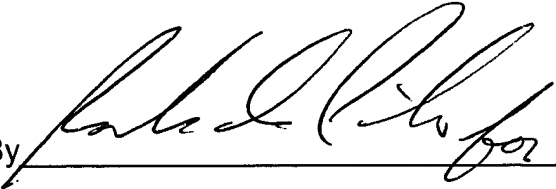
1457-58 (Fed. Cir. 1998). Although, both Goldberg and Brown suggest a re-entering an input identifier, they are each used to solve a particular problem (i.e. accurately matching an input identifier to an appropriate reference identifier and eliminating the need to rely on a pre-stored set of references identifiers, respectively), and no motivation has been provided by the Office Action to show reasons that the skilled artisan, confronted with the same problems as the inventor would select the elements from the cited prior art references for combination in the manner claimed, see *Id.*

Accordingly, at least for these reasons, independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the cited art.

The other claims in this application are dependent from Claim 1 discussed above and are, therefore, believed patentable for at least the same reasons.

The applicants submit that the claims, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 103. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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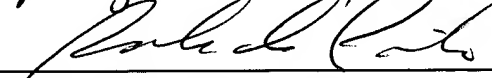
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On August 14, 2001

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